

NC Early Education Coalition

The Status of Child Care Programs in North Carolina

Child care is essential for today's workforce, for children's healthy development and learning, and for employers who count on child care being available for their employees to return to work and do their jobs.

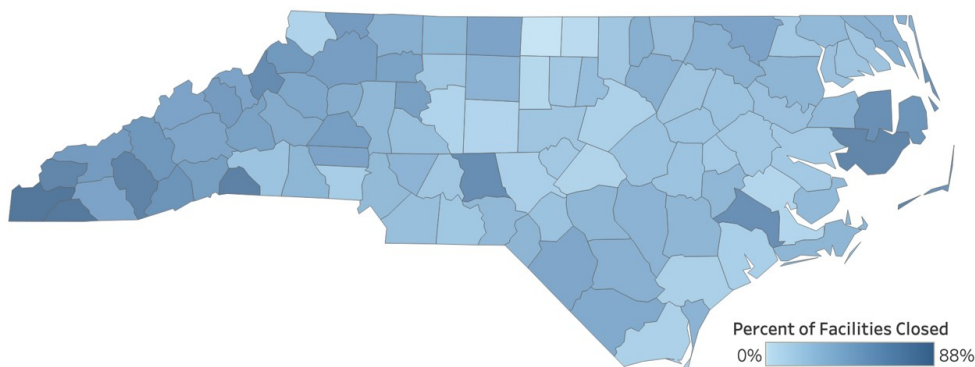
About half of all programs stayed open to serve as sites for essential workers during the stay-at-home phase of the Covid crisis. Now, child care programs are reopening slowly as the state reopens. As of June 19, 2020 67% of all licensed child care programs have opened or reopened: 59% of all child care centers are open and 92% of all family child care homes. However, programs are not operating at full capacity. Vacancy rates continue to be high in all child care programs, with a 49% vacancy rates in child care centers and a 25% vacancy rate in family child care homes. Together these programs are serving about 100,000 children, just one-third of all children enrolled in child care programs pre-Covid.

Across North Carolina, 33% of all child care facilities remain closed. Child care program closures rates vary tremendously across the state from a low of 8% in Pender County to a high of 88% closed in Cherokee County.

In 30 counties, 50% or more of all child care programs are closed, and in 43 counties, 50% or more of all child care centers remain closed. These counties may face particular challenges for economic recovery without child care.

33% of child-care facilities remain closed in N.C.

PERCENT OF CHILD-CARE FACILITIES CLOSED BY COUNTY AS OF MAY 29, 2020



Source: Social Data Request to the NC Partnership for Children. June 2020

The table below provides a county-by-county look at the status of all open and closed child care programs. It also breaks the data down into open and closed status of licensed child care centers and family child care homes.

Status of Open and Closed Child Care Programs in North Carolina

County	# facilities closed	# facilities open	% closed	# centers closed	# centers open	% closed	# family homes closed	# family homes opened	% family homes closed
Alamance	7	59	11%	7	44	14%	0	15	0%
Alexander	7	9	44%	7	8	47%	0	1	0%
Alleghany	4	3	57%	4	3	57%	0	0	
Anson	5	17	23%	4	10	29%	1	7	13%
Ashe	1	6	14%	1	5	17%	0	1	0%
Avery	7	3	70%	7	3	70%	0	0	
Beaufort	6	22	21%	6	12	33%	0	10	0%
Bertie	6	10	38%	5	8	38%	1	2	33%
Bladen	11	16	41%	11	10	52%	0	6	0%
Brunswick	4	22	15%	4	15	21%	0	7	0%
Buncombe	53	54	50%	51	43	54%	2	11	15%
Burke	21	26	45%	21	21	50%	0	5	0%
Cabarrus	33	54	38%	33	38	46%	0	15	0%
Caldwell	29	31	48%	29	24	55%	0	7	0%
Camden	2	3	40%	2	1	67%	0	2	0%
Carteret	9	16	36%	9	12	43%	0	4	0%
Caswell	0	3	0%	0	3	0%	0	0	
Catawba	51	42	55%	51	33	61%	0	9	0%
Chatham	11	34	24%	10	16	38%	1	18	5%
Cherokee	14	2	88%	14	2	88%	0	0	
Chowan	3	8	27%	3	7	30%	0	1	0%
Clay	6	1	86%	6	1	86%	0	0	
Cleveland	23	40	37%	22	28	44%	1	12	8%
Columbus	16	19	46%	15	13	54%	1	5	17%
Craven	6	47	11%	6	21	22%	0	26	0%
Cumberland	103	182	36%	92	119	44%	11	63	15%
Currituck	5	8	38%	5	5	50%	0	3	0%
Dare	17	10	63%	16	5	76%	1	5	17%
Davidson	8	51	14%	8	40	17%	0	11	0%
Davie	9	8	53%	9	7	56%	0	1	0%

Duplin	13	23	36%	11	17	39%	2	6	25%
Durham	78	177	31%	68	83	45%	10	94	10%
Edgecombe	10	28	26%	8	15	35%	2	13	13%
Forsyth	39	130	23%	34	65	34%	5	65	7%
Franklin	10	14	42%	10	12	45%	0	2	0%
Gaston	13	58	18%	12	44	21%	1	14	7%
Gates	3	6	33%	3	1	75%	0	5	0%
Graham	6	2	75%	6	1	86%	0	1	0%
Granville	8	26	24%	8	17	32%	0	9	0%
Greene	3	11	21%	3	6	33%	0	5	0%
Guilford	143	227	39%	135	154	47%	8	71	10%
Halifax	16	23	41%	15	13	54%	1	10	9%
Harnett	9	62	13%	8	38	17%	1	24	4%
Haywood	22	14	61%	22	10	69%	0	4	0%
Henderson	33	27	55%	31	20	61%	2	7	22%
Hertford	4	14	22%	4	10	29%	0	4	0%
Hoke	11	30	27%	11	20	35%	0	10	0%
Hyde	3	1	75%	3	0	100%	0	1	0%
Iredell	28	51	35%	28	35	44%	0	16	0%
Jackson	14	4	78%	13	3	81%	1	1	50%
Johnston	30	83	27%	29	61	32%	1	22	4%
Jones	4	2	67%	4	2	67%	0	0	
Lee	8	28	22%	7	22	24%	1	6	14%
Lenoir	14	26	35%	14	16	47%	0	10	0%
Lincoln	16	16	50%	15	11	58%	1	5	17%
Macon	6	6	50%	6	5	55%	0	1	0%
Madison	5	5	50%	5	4	56%	0	1	0%
Martin	5	13	28%	5	8	38%	0	5	0%
McDowell	13	12	52%	13	8	62%	0	4	0%
Mecklenburg	186	379	33%	178	260	41%	7	118	6%
Mitchell	3	3	50%	3	3	50%	0	0	
Montgomery	9	4	69%	8	4	67%	1	0	100%
Moore	10	49	17%	9	31	23%	1	17	6%
Nash	14	43	25%	14	28	33%	0	15	0%
New Hanover	38	61	38%	31	38	45%	6	23	21%
Northampton	7	7	50%	7	5	58%	0	2	0%
Onslow	12	57	17%	11	36	23%	1	21	5%
Orange	14	47	23%	14	30	32%	0	17	0%
Pamlico	2	4	33%	1	4	20%	1	0	100%

Pasquotank	8	24	25%	8	15	35%	0	9	0%
Pender	5	26	16%	5	12	29%	0	14	0%
Perquimans	2	6	25%	2	3	40%	0	3	0%
Person	2	24	8%	2	9	18%	0	15	0%
Pitt	25	83	23%	25	55	31%	0	28	0%
Polk	4	1	80%	4	1	80%	0	0	
Randolph	5	35	13%	5	28	15%	0	7	0%
Richmond	10	19	34%	10	14	42%	0	5	0%
Robeson	47	51	48%	46	46	50%	1	5	17%
Rockingham	24	24	50%	24	19	56%	0	5	0%
Rowan	12	29	29%	12	20	38%	0	9	0%
Rutherford	6	17	26%	5	13	28%	1	4	20%
Sampson	17	27	39%	15	18	45%	2	9	18%
Scotland	11	19	37%	11	11	50%	0	8	0%
Stanly	8	26	24%	5	21	19%	2	5	29%
Stokes	5	9	36%	5	7	42%	0	2	0%
Surry	18	25	42%	16	15	52%	2	10	17%
Swain	4	3	57%	4	3	57%	0	0	
Transylvania	7	4	64%	7	4	64%	0	0	
Tyrrell	2	1	67%	2	1	67%	0	0	
Union	21	52	29%	21	40	34%	0	11	0%
Vance	19	26	42%	18	12	60%	1	14	7%
Wake	69	381	15%	60	247	20%	9	133	6%
Warren	5	11	31%	5	2	71%	0	9	0%
Washington	4	8	33%	3	7	30%	1	1	50%
Watauga	20	14	59%	19	7	73%	1	7	13%
Wayne	20	57	26%	20	43	32%	0	14	0%
Wilkes	19	16	54%	18	8	69%	1	8	11%
Wilson	7	20	26%	6	19	24%	1	1	50%
Yadkin	14	13	52%	14	10	58%	0	3	0%
Yancey	4	3	57%	4	3	57%	0	0	
State Total	1763	3633	33%	1666	2410	41%	94	1215	7%

Source: Special data request to the NC Partnership for Children, June 2020. Closures as of 5/29/20.

Tables and graphs prepared by the NC Budget and Tax Center